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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8779
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RUEHZH/HAITI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFISS/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1604

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PORT AU PRINCE 001251

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/EX, WHA/CAR VDEPIRRO, S/ES-O/CMS
STATE PASS AID FOR LAC/CAR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [AEMR](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [KFLO](#) [MARR](#) [PREL](#) [PINR](#) [AMGT](#) [EAGR](#)
EAID, ETRD, ECON, HA
SUBJECT: HAITI: HANNA STORM SITUATION REPORT 5

REF: A. A) S/ES-O/CMS HURRICANE HANNA PORTAL
[1](#)B. PAP 01242

Summary

[1](#)1. (SBU) U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince created an internal working group September 3 to monitor the impact of severe flooding and damage in several Haitian cities, caused by Tropical Storms Gustav and Hanna, and to discuss the status of relief efforts. Gonaives in the Artibonite regional (population 300,000) was especially hard hit by rains and wind from TS Hanna. Previous reports may be consulted on the Port-au-Prince section of the Department of State Crisis Management Hurricane Hanna Portal (reftel A). (Note: The Government of Prime Minister Michele Pierre-Louis was officially confirmed by the Haitian Senate September 6 at 0245 HRS local time. End note.) End summary.

Deaths Climb

[1](#)2. (SBU) The official death toll is reported as 136 dead across the country: 102 in Artibonite -- includes Gonaives; 16 in the southern region; 14 in the western region; 3 in the northern region; and 1 in Nippes. UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and USAID note significant potential for a food security crisis as damage to agricultural production in northern areas cannot be replaced with products from southern areas, which have also experienced flooding.

Relief Assistance and Coordination

[1](#)3. (SBU) USAID reported that (3) U.S. Coast Guard helicopters departed Port-au-Prince's airfield heading to Gonaives September 5 at approximately 10:30 a.m. local time. Helicopters are carrying emergency supplies that arrived September 4 (e.g., water jugs, tarps, hygiene kits).

[1](#)4. (SBU) Helicopters are expected to land on a MINUSTAH base that is secured by an Argentinian contingent and conduct a minimum of three rotations September 5. The International Office for Migration will distribute relief items, in conjunction with local NGOs that have already been identified. A total of 110 packets of MRIs from FEMA/Orlando can also be made available for distribution. A Coast Guard Cutter will depart for Gonaives o/a 1500 HRS September 5 (ETA September 6) with food items, as well as non-food emergency supplies.

Security and Emergency Planning

15. (SBU) RSO reported that September 4 protests in the neighborhood of Cite Soleil (Port-au-Prince) have since diminished. Although reports conflict, some findings indicate residents feel neglected due to a greater focus on developments in Gonaives and other areas hard hit by recent floods. While there have been no reports of violence, there appears to be increasing restlessness with the pace of relief delivery and the slow response by the Government of Haiti. RSO clarified that prisoners in Gonaives were not/not released into the general public. Per NAS, prisoners are being housed at a local jail.

16. (U) The international airport in the capital of Port-au-Prince remains open and flights are operating normally. Emergency Action Committee determined at its September 4 meeting (reftel B) that Embassy is taking appropriate security measures in light of approaching Hurricane Ike, and no additional security measures are warranted at this time. Hurricane preparedness information will be re-distributed to all employees, as well as reminders urging staff to carry cell phones and radios at all times.

American Citizen Services

17. CONS reported that the individuals stranded at the Hotel Frantz in Gonaives are not Amcits, but have nonetheless been assisted. The seven stranded Amcit missionaries who sought refuge at a UN base in Gonaives were able to board a

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Uruguayan vessel and have arrived at the Port-au-Prince airport, seeking a flight. CONS will work closely with MLO to possibly assist with the movement of stranded Amcits from Gonaives to Port-au-Prince, as appropriate. There have been no reports of Amcit injuries or deaths at this time.
SANDERSON